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Two big jobs ahead

SECRETARY CLINTON P. ANDERSON

■ Every extension worker will agree with me that our immediate job is to whip the Japs. We will do that as thoroughly and as speedily as we know how. Farmers and those called upon to work with farmers in the States and counties appreciate that the job of whipping the Japs is one which presents us with many new food problems. Food cannot be successfully "redeployed," as can men and equipment, from one theater of military operations to another on the opposite side of the globe. The pipe lines to the Pacific are longer. Military needs for food in the Pacific are different than they were in Europe.

I am one who believes in the ability of United States farmers to produce what's needed, provided they have the necessary facts far enough in advance. The Secretary of Agriculture and those working with him should be able to establish those facts. Farmers have a right to expect us to let them know what crops and what foods and fibers are needed in the light of the facts.

In my first report, made over the radio July 16, I pictured the food situation as it stood in midsummer of this year. I called attention to the fact that agriculture is always faced by the uncertainty of weather, although these uncertainties are no greater than others forced on us by war. I outlined a policy of abundant production here at home with a farm price policy to encourage record crops. Further reports will be made. I hope extension workers will find them helpful. We expect to provide facts about food as rapidly as they can be determined accurately.

In the history of agriculture there have been two periods when the country needed—and got—all-out

production on United States farms. The first was during World War I; the second in the years since Pearl Harbor. In each of these periods, agricultural science provided all possible help to increase production. In each of those periods, the Cooperative Extension Service performed its most outstanding service. Farmers have learned to look to it for technical help and information. Extension work is the educational arm of the Department of Agriculture, the State agricultural colleges, and the State agricultural experiment stations. It has served as a great lantern shedding light on farm problems and helping to make record production possible.

County agents, as cooperative employees of the Department of Agri-

culture, know that even as forces are building up to give Japan her knock-out blow, the problems of peace to face United States farmers are looming up fast. They present challenges as great to farmers as any faced during the war. Extension workers have a real challenge in helping farmers to analyze these problems.

The Nation cannot afford to have its agriculture wrecked after World War II as it did after World War I. The Nation cannot afford to let down its guard against huge losses from soil destruction that accompany a poverty-stricken agriculture. I have confidence that sound policies will continue to come from the grass roots, through farmers and rural people taking intelligent action on the basis of facts. As I have said, farmers have a right to know the facts. I hope that county agents and the entire Cooperative Extension Service will join me and all in the departmental service in finding the facts

Our new Chiefs, Secretary Anderson (right) and Under Secretary Hutson (left).



and in truthfully getting these to farmers.

I am aware of the great contributions the Extension Service has made in the field of youth leadership and improved living in the farm home. The post-war period offers a real challenge in youth leadership, both among 4-H youth and older youth.

Keeping the tractor in service

■ The war is mechanizing Arkansas and is making trained machine operators and mechanics out of farmers. Paradoxically, it has all come about as a result of the shortage of machinery—and, of course, the shortage of manpower. This came to light in the series of tractor schools held in Arkansas in January, February, and April, according to Earle K. Rambo of the University of Arkansas College of Agriculture. At 47 schools requested by the county agents in 45 counties having 100 or more tractors, 4,949 tractor owners and operators gathered to learn better operation and preventive maintenance practices.

Before the schools were started, it was known that there had been a great increase in the number of tractors on the farms in the State. The 1940 census showed that there were only about 12,500 tractors in operation that year. In September 1944, more than 28,000 were registered for tractor fuel in the State. As farm machinery companies reported that they had not sold 16,000 tractors in Arkansas since the 1940 census was taken, the apparent discrepancy in the figures proved that increased production goals and a reduced farm labor force had placed back into service machines which had been idle for possibly a year or longer.

During these years, however, there was a loss of more than one-half of the experienced operators and tractor mechanics, forcing the handling of from one-half to three-fourths of the tractors owned by Arkansas farmers upon relatively inexperienced people, the extension agricultural engineer explains. That they took their inexperience into account and realized the importance of safety practices and proper care of their equipment to obtain maximum use is revealed in the increased interest and attendance at

As a member of Congress I had the pleasure of voting for the Bankhead-Flannagan bill which looks toward more of this type of extension work.

We don't know just when the job of whipping the Japs will be over. But we do know that when it ends, some big jobs in agriculture have just begun.

the schools. At 20 similar schools requested in 1944, there was a total attendance of only 1,608.

Not only are there more tractors in Arkansas now than there were in 1940, but there are many other types of farm machinery and equipment. There are about three times as many combines, and the number of tractor mowers has increased considerably. Field ensilage harvesters and pick-up hay presses have been introduced in the State during the last few years, and farmers are buying these machines as fast as dealers can deliver them, Mr. Rambo says. One of the most popular film strips exhibited at

the schools showed various types of labor-saving equipment in operation.

"The increase in power equipment demands increased hours of service of farm tractors," Mr. Rambo explains. "Not many years ago it was not uncommon for tractors to be operated only 400 or 500 hours a year; now some are operated more than 2,000 hours. The average tractor is built to give about 2,000 hours of service before a major overhaul job is needed. Without proper care, an overhaul job may be needed at the end of 1,000 or even 500 hours of service. With proper care, the period between overhauls may be extended to 3,000 or 5,000 hours."

"It is not only on the rich delta land of the State that the mechanization of Arkansas is taking place," the agricultural engineer said. The high number of requests for schools in the hill sections and the large attendances revealed that there, too, farmers are labor saving-conscious. Benton County, in the northwest Ozark Mountain region, was one of the 2 counties in the State where interest was so great that an additional school was requested. A total of 268 people attended the 2 schools.

Farm fire prevention effective in California

WOODBIDGE METCALF, Extension Forester, California

■ For the third year in a row the 1944 harvest season in California was completed in most places without any periods of bad fire-hazard weather. Fire-prevention efforts paid dividends. For example, by way of contrast, in 1943, 27 harvester fires burned over 9,000 acres in Monterey County causing an \$85,000 damage. One well-attended meeting of grain farmers was held in the San Arde District in March 1944, and emphasis was placed on effective spark arresters for exhaust pipes and the protection of manifolds.

Before harvest season began the State ranger made inspections of every harvesting outfit and discussed with the owner and operator fire safety and installation of hand fire-fighting equipment. The result was that no grain harvester fires occurred in Monterey County in 1944. At the

same time a vigorous campaign of clean-up along highway and railroad rights of way through grain areas reduced damage from these potential danger points to negligible proportions. Similar efforts in Madera and other counties were productive of good results and, aided by favorable weather, most grain and hay crops were harvested with little fire loss.

Two of the worst fires during the year were on watershed areas in San Diego and Santa Barbara Counties, and they were brought under control by Federal and State fire crews with the assistance of military personnel. During the fall there was an outbreak of willful burning of brush and scattered timber areas in northwest Sonoma and southern Mendocino Counties, causing little present damage but giving concern to local fire-suppression forces.

Early rains of moderate intensity and warm weather during November were favorable for growth of annual grasses on the burned areas and will probably minimize erosion during the winter.

Reports by farm advisers indicate that 1,204 farm fire companies with a membership of 13,884 farmers were prepared to give service in volunteer fire suppression during the year. Reports of a number of instances of quick and effective action on fires, coupled with widespread spring emphasis on fire prevention, and similar work during Fire Prevention Week in

October with good use of publicity supplied by the National Fire Protection Association indicate again a large saving of vital resources through the operation of this program. The amount is unknown; but if estimated at half of the saving accomplished during the last 2 war years, the value of property thus saved from destruction would be 2 million dollars. The total contribution to the saving of resources needed in the war effort would thus be estimated at 10 million dollars in California for the 3 war years.

Suitable clothing with a style revue of functional work garments revealed that feminine furbelows have little place in the garb of the field worker. Health and first aid were included in each program. In Brown County, this material was presented by the county health nurse. As Harmon Boyd, Union County agent, pointed out: "If we can prevent one serious accident in Union County by conducting these schools, we shall feel that they have been well worth while."

Timesavers in home management for the farm women spending a short time during peak harvest in field work were discussed, with valuable suggestions coming from the experiences of those women present. The women also enjoyed the recipes for nutritious one-dish meals and appetizing cookies and sandwiches for the field lunch box.

Instructions varied with the local arrangements and the available talents. Helpful hints on homemaking subjects were presented by Mrs. Harriet Martinson, assistant supervisor of labor (WLA) or the county home demonstration agent.

Joe Hill, extension supervisor specializing in labor utilization, and the county agent, or the farm labor assistant discussed motor principles and safety in operation.

"Around the tractor" was presented by commercial engineers.

South Dakota tractor schools for women, 1945

■ Safe and efficient tractor operation was stressed at 11 tractor schools for women held in 9 South Dakota counties during March and April 1945. A total of 275 girls and women, many of whom were already operating tractors, attended these schools which were conducted by the South Dakota Extension Service as part of the emergency farm labor program. Local dealers cooperated to furnish equipment and a heated place to meet. Lunch was served by dealers or by civic groups. Instruction was provided by trained field men of implement and oil companies, as well as by extension personnel.

To many of the women who had already operated a tractor for a season or more in a variety of field jobs, these schools by lecture and demonstration gave a new understanding of the "why" and "how" those machines actually worked.

Ignition, carburation, and the cooling system of tractors were explained. Air cleaners and oil filters were actually removed from machines which had seen field use. Greasing, lubrication, and the use of power fuels were discussed.

Safety entered into every phase of the school, with charts to illustrate good and bad driving practices, correct hitches, and the importance of shields on the power take-off and other moving parts.

So that women might learn on the type of tractor they would actually

use there were both hand- and foot-clutch machines at each meeting.

Some girls, as Eleanor Dittus, rural school teacher of Ashton in Spink County, were getting ready to do field work for the first time this season. Eleanor drives a car, but she had never driven the tractor much because there were two brothers at home to help her dad farm the section of land. The last brother was inducted this spring, and Eleanor took over one tractor for the summer.

Under the guidance of instructors girls learn to drive tractors.



A neighborhood leader becomes President

■ A revealing picture of the early life of President Harry S. Truman is to be found in the records of the first 25 years of extension work in Jackson County, Mo.

These records show that the President, in 1913, helped to organize the Jackson County Farm Bureau and in his own township organized the first boys' and girls' club in western Missouri. He worked that year also with the newly appointed "farm advisor" in forming clubs in other parts of the county and in raising money to support the work. In later years, as a member of the county court, he gave effective support to an ever widening program of extension work and to the building of a county-wide system of hard-surfaced roads.

All of these activities were a natural outgrowth of the President's background and his interests as a farmer, say the old neighbors around Grandview for four generations. The President's nephew is now farming the home place. Present holdings consist of 390 acres, including the original homestead.

Trumans Love the Land

The neighbors say that the Truman family have always loved the land and have taken care of it. The President's father, John Truman, who died in 1914, had built his farming system around good livestock and a conservative rotation of crops. From 1906 to 1917, when Harry S. Truman was farming the place, he maintained the practices established by his father and adopted a number of newer soil-building measures.

One neighbor, Harry Arington, who grew up with the President and frequently changed work with him, states flatly that young Truman as early as 1912 constructed the county's first sodded grass waterways for erosion control. He increased the frequency of red clover in his crop rotations and used all barnyard manure to enrich the soil and increase its capacity for holding moisture.

Livestock men chuckle over the saying that Harry Truman was the only United States Senator who could look a mule in the mouth and accu-

rately tell the animal's age. Old neighbors say nothing about the other senators, but they do say that the President hasn't forgotten this art, for his father bought and sold mules by the score.

Farm people and extension workers everywhere are happy to know that President Truman has been an ardent supporter of agricultural and home economics extension work since 1913.

That was the year that the Jackson County Farm Bureau was organized. Its first president and its leader for many years thereafter was O. V. Slaughter whose farm, near Grandview, joined the Truman farm. Harry S. Truman, then 29, was chosen chairman of the Washington township group and became at once active in the organization of a boys' and girls' club. He was also the leader of a township community fair at which the club members could match their skill in contests and enter their products in competitive exhibition.

The same procedure was followed in the other six townships of the county, and as a result a railway

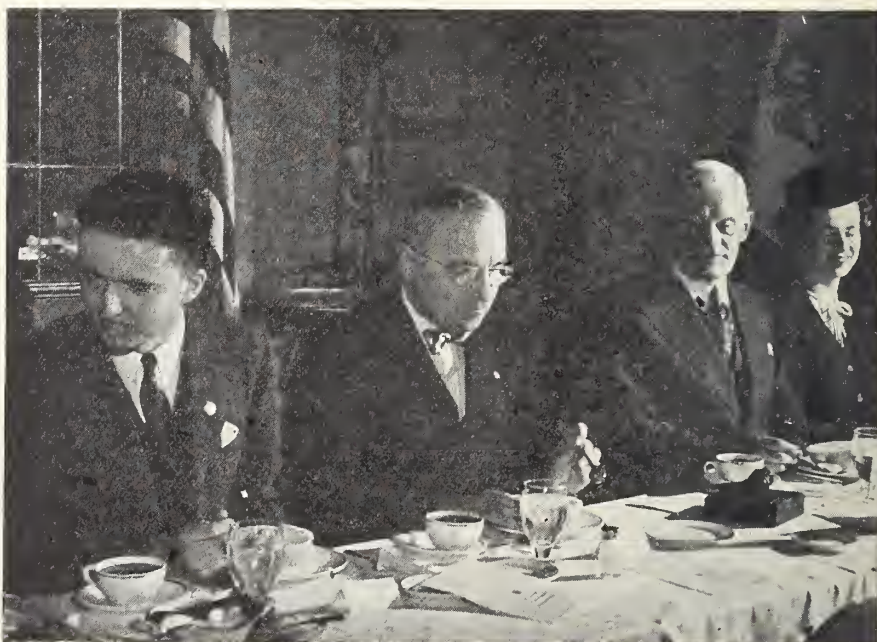
coachful of boys' and girls' club delegates went to Farmers Week, an annual 5-day event at Columbia sponsored at that time by the Missouri College of Agriculture and the State Board of Agriculture.

On May 10, 1913, the College and the Farm Bureau brought into Jackson County the county's first farm advisor, E. A. Eikenberry. With his help, young Truman perfected plans for the Grandview Fair that fall, featuring boys' and girls' club work. Awards were made for exhibits and to winners in judging corn, livestock, and poultry. Profits from the fair and from advertising in the printed premium list were used to help pay the expenses of the club delegation on their 5-day trip to the State college.

Nor has President Truman at any time since 1913 receded from his position as friend and supporter of good country roads, happily organized communities, and the fullest participation of rural people in the programs of the College of Agriculture and the Agricultural Extension Service.

The Jackson County Farm Bureau has been the sponsoring organization for extension work in Jackson County since its beginning. It has been the custom of this organization since 1914 to have a banquet as a part of the annual meeting program. This is a

President Truman converses with Thomas E. Wilson at the National 4-H Goals for Victory Breakfast held in Washington, D. C., March 6. (Left to right) Don Sullivan, Potsdam, N. Y., 4-H leadership winner; President Truman; Thomas E. Wilson, chairman, National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work; and Anne Lee Tipton, 4-H Club member, Poolesville, Md.



popular event attended by 180 to 450 people. All the time that Harry S. Truman was judge of the county court of that county he was an honor guest at the banquet and had a place at the head table. On numerous occasions he was asked to say a word. He always offered encouragement to the organization and expressed sincere appreciation of the work being done.

Court Supports Extension Work

At no time during Truman's terms as associate judge and presiding judge were there any strained relations between the various groups that joined their efforts with those of the court in support of extension work. Presiding Judge Truman and the two associate judges approved appropriations for extension work in Jackson County as great as \$15,000 a year. On two occasions when the extension organization in the county voted to put on a county agricultural exhibit at the Missouri State Fair, Judge Truman and his associates appropriated \$1,000 additional to finance the exhibit.

President Truman, even in his earliest years of work with the farm bureau and the boys' and girls' clubs, gave evidence of an inherent instinct for organization, says John Slaughter of the Hickman Mills Bank. John Slaughter grew up on a farm adjoining that of the Trumans, and he later served as a county extension agent in Missouri. He knows the President intimately, and he knows the need and opportunity for high-type community organization work in the open country.

"Truman's natural personal traits and his farm experience fitted him for leadership," says Slaughter. "His farm was clean and orderly and his crops well cared for. The neighbors liked him. They had great confidence in his ability to get things done. He had the ability to get the people of the community to work together. He always saw the bright side—the constructive side. He never assumed any superiority over anyone else. He was at home in any group. He was a gentleman through and through."

The remarks of President Truman's old neighbors are fully confirmed by records in the courthouse at Independence, where the present county extension agent, L. J. Wormington, has his office. He writes that President Truman's father was road over-

seer in the Grandview area of Jackson County until his death and that the President himself was appointed to succeed him in 1915. At that time there were 600 miles of dirt road in the county and slightly less than 200 miles of macadam. In the 2 or 3 years that President Truman served as road overseer prior to his enlistment for service in World War I, he envisioned a system of good roads to reach every rural neighborhood in the county. In later years, during his first term as member of the county court he designed an economical method of road surfacing and a coverage network that made possible the realization of his earlier dreams.

While he was associate judge he planned an inner and an outer belt system with carefully spaced connections. As presiding judge in 1928 he

advocated a 6½-million dollar bond issue to build such a system of permanent roads and is credited with having been the most important single influence in obtaining its approval by popular vote. In his second campaign for presiding judge in 1931 he asked for an additional 3½ million in bonds and was again successful.

When completed in May 1934, this road system placed every farm in the county on a surfaced road—and left no farm farther than 2 miles from a concrete highway. The system included 252 miles of concrete highway and 30 major bridges. The Jackson County system at the time of its completion was second in the United States as a county network of all-weather roads, excelled only by that of Westchester County, N. Y.

Neighborhood leaders promote home fruit growing

■ North Carolina's "Fruit for Home Use" program is getting more fruit planted on the farms. In 74 neighborhoods or communities in 38 counties 2,933 families took part this spring in the cooperative purchase of fruit trees and berry plants. They planted 114,225 strawberry plants, of which 4,200 were planted by 4-H Club members. Other berry plants now growing on North Carolina farms because of this program are: raspberries, 796; dewberries, 1,741; and grapes, 352. Among the orchard trees set out were: apple, 393; peach, 691; plum, 29; pear, 57; and cherry, 72.

This is the way the program was organized, according to H. R. Niswonger, in charge of horticultural extension.

Farm and home agents held community meetings of local leaders and farm people to discuss needs, kinds of fruits wanted, and prices they could pay. A plan for cooperative purchase of plants was presented. When adopted, orders were pooled. Agents and a committee of leaders contacted nurserymen and arranged for the nursery stock. Neighborhood leaders took orders, collected the

money, made up the pooled order, received the plants, and in most cases delivered them.

Horticultural specialists assisted agents with initial meetings in 48 counties, of which 38 proceeded with the project. The results showed 621 families ordered strawberry plants; 51, raspberries; 51, dewberries; 13, blackberries; 137, grapes; 100, apples; 119, peaches; 19, plums; 38, pears; 34 cherries; 97, pecans; 32, figs; and 19 boysenberries.

The follow-up on the part of the specialists consisted of preparing timely instruction information on cultural practices, which was sent to the farm and home agents, and they in turn mailed it to the families who had planted the various kinds of fruits. Field meetings in those neighborhoods were held in July and August, at which time demonstrations were given in such practices as are needed for the rest of the year.

The specialists and agents as well as the neighborhood leaders are enthusiastic over this project and procedure. They plan to cover the rest of the counties next year, as well as to extend the project to other neighborhoods in counties already included.

Developing plans from community up

OLIVIA BENFORD, Home Demonstration Agent, Weld County, Colo.

■ A statement made by the chairman of the Weld County Agricultural Council, Charles Plumb, is probably the best way of describing the success of community and neighborhood leaders in the recent hospitalization plan which has been made available to the rural population of Weld County, Colo. That statement is: "We believe that the agricultural program should develop from the community up, not from the national level down."

The program of the county extension office is directed by approximately 150 of the county's leading farmers who constitute the county agricultural council. Members are good farmers or ranchers, recognized leaders in the community, and are willing to give time and thought to the cause of rural education and a better life. At present, membership is limited to 2 or 3 from each of the county's 47 communities, plus representation from each county organization having an agricultural program.

The workers who carry on the program are 1,600 4-H Club members, more than 100 4-H Club leaders, 900 home demonstration club members, and several hundred farmers working individually, in committees, and through cooperatives. The value of united action and cooperation has been taught—a process brought about through many years of work. (I believe this has been developed mainly through the attitude of two former county agents, Harry Simpson and L. V. Toyne, who have made these leaders feel that this is their county and that they should be the ones to direct the work done in the county extension office.)

Many cooperatives and associations have been formed as a direct result of this leadership. In the past year there have been the county health association and the weed eradication association. In former years there have been the grazing districts, seed growers' association, cow testing association, pest districts for prairie dogs, and potato marketing cooperatives.

At the community level, work is being done through cooperative efforts of the schools, PTA groups, community clubs, Granges and Farmers Union. However, the Weld County Agricultural Council has filled a need seen by community leaders. Council members are friendly toward these other organizations but challenge them to match the past accomplishments or future possibilities from the standpoint of community service of the council.

These leaders are not called on to do menial jobs but those that are

Cornell has a self-appraisal club

■ Cornell has a self-appraisal club—the Cornell Extension Club. On the first Monday of each month, specialists, and the administrative staff, too, meet for a 2-hour session to appraise the effectiveness of extension methods in New York State and to discuss any new procedures, practices, or items of interest to Extension. Sometimes the speaker is a specialist; other times an outsider is invited. An informal presentation is always followed by a frank, open discussion by any or all club members. This year's program deals with the effectiveness of extension information.

At one of the first meetings, Gladys Gallup of Washington was asked to discuss the readability of extension bulletins. She explained how to judge bulletins from the standpoint of sentence length, difficult words, and personal references. Authors whose bulletins were cited took a gentle ribbing good naturedly, and the consensus was: "A great diplomat—she could have made us awful mad, but she didn't."

At another meeting, L. P. Ham, of Batten, Barton, Durstine, and Osborne, said: "Extension people are salesmen; if not, they ought to be."

"The general level of acceptance of ideas is pretty low." He cited hog sanitation in the West where a definite system has been urged for 20 years, yet only 5 percent of the farm-

vastly important to the program as a whole. They understand their place in the set-up and what their job is in the community when they get back to it. Of course, there are always some who do not go ahead, but the community itself is usually the first to see it. They know of someone who can fill the place. They recognize leadership.

There are problems and difficulties to overcome always. If an organization did not have these, something would be wrong. An active and growing organization goes ahead by surmounting and ironing out its problems. The county extension office acts as a mainspring in keeping the farm organization alive and helps in directing the thinking of leaders as a whole community or county and not so much on one small community.

ers practice it. The same was said to be true of treating flaxseed.

Mr. Ham, of course, did not give the solution but inferred that it did point to the need for learning what makes farmers accept ideas. He said, "See how successful you have been, and determine how far you ought to go."

At still another meeting, the place of colored motion pictures in Extension was portrayed both by a showing of the picture and by a discussion of its value as a teaching method.

Each of nine departments prepared an exhibit of its information material for the last meeting. These departments were agronomy, agricultural engineering, floriculture and ornamental horticulture, animal husbandry, forestry, agricultural economics, plant pathology, vegetable crops, and poultry husbandry.

On a cardboard were mounted an extension bulletin, a service letter, two news articles, a radio address, a kodachrome slide, and photographs. These were judged by William B. Ward, editor and chief of publications; by Bristow Adams, professor emeritus; and by James S. Knapp, associate professor; who commented on the material presented.

The Cornell Extension Club has been active for 11 years, and much of its success may be attributed to the informal presentation and to the "family circle" tone of the meetings.

Home demonstration agent takes over

This account of Helen M. Loofbourrow's experience in directing the educational program of the Extension Service in Ellsworth County, Kans., was written by Mrs. Eula Mae Kelly, assistant extension editor, to whom the factual data were supplied.

■ For 10 months I have carried the entire extension program in Ellsworth County, Kans.—“pinch-hitting” in the absence of a county agricultural agent and at the same time taking the full responsibility of the home economics and 4-H Club programs. It has been an exacting and eventful period, one that has taught me volumes—yet an experience that has been thrilling and satisfying because I know I am making a small contribution to the war effort.

I came to Ellsworth County as home demonstration agent in May 1942, so I was fairly well acquainted in the county before I took over the agricultural program in June 1944. Prior to my coming to Ellsworth County, I had been an assistant home demonstration agent and had taught home economics in high school. But, I confess I had never supervised alfalfa variety test plots or given advice on ox warbles!

Organized for Postwar

My chief aim has been to keep alive an interest in the entire extension program in Ellsworth County. In this ultimate objective, I believe I have succeeded fairly well, well enough at least that my county will go into the post-war period well organized and with an active membership in every phase of the extension program. Necessarily, I have had less time to spend with home demonstration units and individual 4-H members so I could devote at least part of my time to the agricultural projects.

By arranging, publicizing, and attending all meetings of the agricultural specialists in the county, I have made it possible for farmers of the area to continue to receive the latest agricultural information from Kansas State College and the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station. I am proud to say that more news stories on agricultural subjects have been

published since we have been without an agent than before.

Field visits with agricultural specialists are on my calendar. I have arranged for and attended all executive board and other organization meetings including all township community meetings. Questions concerning crops and livestock in both adult and 4-H work come my way and are taken care of. Circular letters containing timely information and other letters announcing specialist meetings are prepared and sent out to the farmers.

Helped to Harvest Wheat

Last June I supervised and helped harvest the wheat variety test plots and got a summary of the results to the farmers of the county. I also located and supervised the planting of wheat and alfalfa variety test plots for 1945.

I meet with the county war board, call meetings and act as secretary, and work with the soil conservation board when necessary.

In agriculture, Ellsworth County is stressing crop and soil improvement. Next fall, in cooperation with men leaders, we hope to carry out a program of cattle-grub control.

If anything, I have emphasized 4-H work more in the county than formerly. It is enjoyable work and work that pays excellent dividends. I feel that we are building the extension program of tomorrow when we train 4-H Club members. Three new clubs were organized during the year, bringing our membership up to 193. I put out 31 club news-letters during 1944.

One of my biggest jobs was arranging for the 2-day 4-H county fair, which is the largest county-wide event of the year. The 1944 fair had more than 500 entries made by 130 club members. In addition to arranging livestock, home-economics, and poultry exhibits, demonstration contests

had to be directed and scheduled. Along with a parade, a style revue, and best-groomed boys' contest with 4-H music provided a whole evening's entertainment. Of course, this tremendous task of supervision was possible only through the splendid cooperation of 4-H leaders and chamber of commerce members.

Other events for which I assume full responsibility are 4-H festival, 4-H achievement party, 4-H camp, and State fair. Arranging for the transportation to and from and supervising 35 active youngsters at a 3-day camp and 12 boys and girls for a week at the State fair is no small job for a home demonstration agent.

What aspects of the program have I given up temporarily? I do not attend meetings of home demonstration units and 4-H Clubs as I did formerly, nor do I have time for the home visits I should make. However, we have carried forward a strong home-economics program promoting better farm homes and labor-saving devices, and have devoted considerable time to post-war planning. I represent extension on the county nutrition committee.

Fine Cooperation in County

In carrying out my triple role in Ellsworth County, I must give credit to able 4-H and home demonstration project leaders as well as the county 4-H council, the home economics advisory committee, and the executive board, all of whom have given fine cooperation. Our efficient office secretary, Dorothy Vlcek, is a marvelous help. She knows most of the people who come into the office for information, and because she has been in the office a long time and has heard county agents discuss these matters, can usually answer their questions. If she cannot, she can find the proper bulletin or will write to the specialist who can supply the information. Miss Vlcek assisted with 65 Federal income tax returns this year and about the same number last year and the year before.

Of course, my biggest difficulty is finding the time to do everything efficiently and still have some time for the personal things I like to do, like make a garden, can fruits and vegetables, and keep up my apartment. But I can triumphantly say that my 1945 victory garden is planted and doing nicely!



Extension agents join fighting forces

Nineteen extension workers have made the supreme sacrifice. More than 1,300 extensioners serve their country in the armed forces. These men and women are in many parts of the world and in various branches of the service. Sometimes their experiences are a far cry from those of pre-war days.

Luxembourg letter

I have visited Brussels, a beautiful city; and surprising to me was the fact that the shops and stores are so well supplied with stocks, but the prices are very high. The people there live a very gay life, as in Paris.

Sounds like you all are having to tighten your belts another notch and get home a little earlier nights. You've still got us far outclassed on the curfew, but maybe we have an edge on the food situation. We're mighty proud of the quantity and quality of food that arrives daily, and we realize the good work and production output in the States.

We have had beautiful weather here lately, and the boys who have roughed it all winter are basking in the sun, getting warm and dry once more. They certainly deserve all they can absorb, and that goes doubly for credit due them.—*Sgt. R. G. Merryfield, assistant agent, Cloud County, Kans.*

France in 1945

I have had several opportunities to get a close-up of French agriculture, and I have found it sound in almost every case. The methods are not as modern as ours, but some of the results far exceed anything I have seen in the States. I have traveled from Southern France to north of Paris, and the most outstanding single thing I have observed is the complete lack of erosion. I have yet to see a single gully made by erosion. Every foot of land not in row crops is in heavy sod. Manure is utilized to the fullest and

has been their only fertilizer for the past 4 years. The system of handling manure is a story within itself that must wait until I return. In the meantime I am getting quite a bit of information along other agricultural lines that I am sure can be put to good use in Tennessee after the war.

I am sure you will be interested in knowing about the food situation in relation to the armed forces overseas. Out of all the shortages and delays experienced with materials and equipment necessary to carry on the war, food is the only one not affected. There has always been a large quantity of food, and during the past year there has been a steady improvement in quality. We now get fresh meat four to five times a week and chicken about once a week (cold storage), vegetables of all kinds that have been shipped in cans, dehydrated potatoes, beets, carrots, and some spinach. Among the most beneficial foods are canned fruit and juices, served once or twice a day. These have prevented an epidemic of colds and influenza this past winter. The canned C rations have been improved to the point where they are actually tasty. A year ago, hunger was the only thing that would force a soldier to eat a can of these rations.—*Pfc. Thomas B. Carney, assistant county agent, Claiborne County, Tenn.*

Adventures in the Pacific

We have been doing the same old things but spending longer periods at sea and increasing the tempo of attack. Censorship regulations have

been lifted to almost nothing now; we can tell all about any operation after it is a month old. Consequently, I could write a book on the activities of the San Diego. We've been in everything that has taken place here.

Since we left the States April 14, 1944, we have participated in raids on Marcus, Wake, the uncaptured Marshalls, the Caroline Islands, Palau, the Marianas, Bonins, Volcanoes, Philippines, Formosa, Hongkong, Canton, Hainan Island, Saigon in French Indo China, Kyushu, and Tokyo. We were in the first raids made on nearly every one of these places. We were close enough to Honshu to see Fujiyama if it had been a clear day, which it was not.

Of course the planes have taken the brunt of the strikes, and all I have is praise for those lads. Imagine landing a plane during a pitch-black night on a spot in the ocean 100 by 500 feet, and you will know what I mean. If there are any better fliers anywhere, I can't think where it would be. But we have had some excitement ourselves. One day our task group shot down seven Japs.—*Lt. (jg.) Oscar W. Norby, Crawford County, Kans., club agent.*

THE ROLL CALL

(Continued from last month)

PENNSYLVANIA

John R. Dauberman, assistant agent, Blair and Cambria Counties, Army.

Glenn W. Ely, assistant agent, Center and Lycoming Counties, Army.

Roger M. Harrington, assistant agent, Armstrong and Indiana Counties, Army.

E. B. Tait, editorial assistant, Agricultural Extension Service, State College, Pa.

Extension expands the boundaries

MABEL MILHAN, Home Demonstration Agent, Rensselaer County, N. Y.

■ Our 216 leaders in 36 organized groups of Rensselaer County feel their responsibility to 1,275 co-operators. They are continually helping neighbors and friends with the various projects for which they have gained skills at training schools. This year in Rensselaer County we asked each leader to select an assistant. Then, immediately after the leader comes from training school she teaches her assistant what she has learned. In this way, she has good help in teaching the groups. Space and time necessitate our having only one leader from each group attend most training schools. We have suggested that the assistant be a new cooperator, a young homemaker who has not yet had the privilege of being a leader. This is one way, we believe, of expanding and developing leadership.

This year we have turned more attention to the many homemakers who naturally do not get in touch with the Extension Service but who have problems with which Extension can help. In our office, in the center of Troy, a city of 72,000, we have had continuous exhibits which frequently are mentioned in the daily paper. At Christmas we exhibited home-made toys; later, soybeans, a fitted sewing basket, a mending basket from a half-bushel peach basket, a spool rack fitted into a cigar box to hold 18 spools of thread, and a covered sewing box with needle book and pin cushion on the cover. Then there was a special week when the county bag kit could be inspected.

A bulletin rack also attracts homemakers. They are likely to tell neighbors and friends that a friendly welcome waits them at the extension office.

Nevertheless, many homemakers never climb the stairs at the post office. But they do have to find their way each month to the Power Company office to pay their gas and light bills. And we have taken advantage of this. Last year, for 14 weeks on Mondays, an information center on canning methods was carried on at the Power Company office with a county leader in charge who could answer questions. An exhibit of

equipment and canned products attracted more than 200 women who stopped for information and who later went to the extension office for bulletins and other helps. Here also anyone can bring a pressure cooker cover to be tested, and every owner is encouraged to have the gauge tested every year.

During the past spring we had clothing information days at the Power Company office. The first information day was given on how to cover a buckle; next, how to sew on a button to stay; then, how to make a pulled-through patch; and, later, how to mend ragged sleeve edges and worn coat collars. Each time a dramatic exhibit was placed on a large display board, window signs announced the event, and an exhibit showed the process step by step. The person in charge had materials so that

anyone who wished could try out for herself. An attractive well-equipped work box completed the exhibit. This idea carried out also in a large village in the county with good results. Scon garden and canning information will be dispensed in the same way once a week.

There is no end to the questions referred to the extension office. For instance, a homemaker wanted to know how to send fried chicken to her son in the South Pacific—it was the one thing he had requested. The agent knew of a tin can sealer in the county, located the owner by telephone, and completed arrangements for its use. Three days later the agent drove the boy's mother, two dressed chickens, and some butter 25 miles to the home where the tin can sealer and a pressure cooker were. The owner of this equipment had never canned meat and was glad to have a chance to learn how.

Now she may prepare more tin cans of home food for service boys because tin carries perishables safely.

County council of youth agencies

HARRIET B. CLAUSEN, 4-H Club Agent, Rockland County, N. Y.

■ Our county PTA council selected a program topic "Is there a lack of leadership in our communities?" The "board of experts" invited to make up a panel were the executive secretaries of the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the YMCA, and the 4-H Club agent.

Whether the PTA Council got the answer to its question is not known; for both sides were argued, and discussions from the audience only enlivened the pros and cons. However, in the hall afterwards, we—the members of the panel, some of whom had never met before—realized that a problem common to us all might be worked out and strengthened if we could get together and talk just among ourselves and not before an audience.

Mr. Condit of the Boy Scouts called the group together and included the county director of vocational guidance, who encouraged us by saying that a similar group, only larger, had been very effective in Jamestown, N. Y., several years ago.

At the first meeting we merely talked, but out of the talk came a few aims such as: to further one

another's knowledge of the aims and programs of the various youth organizations in the county; to endeavor to avoid duplication of effort; to take common action on county-wide questions and to be generally helpful to one another.

Since that first meeting we have chosen the name of Council of Youth Agencies and have invited to join us the district superintendent of schools, representatives of the ministerial association, the Catholic diocese, the PTA, the public health nursing service, State charities aid, the American Legion Junior Auxiliary, and the probation officer. Some of these may not be interested—there may be other groups we have overlooked, but we plan to keep it a group for the professional youth leaders.

We are in a small urban county only 30 miles from New York City where there could be a lot of rivalry among youth group leaders. We believe we can be of real service to the folks of the county if we meet every month or so for luncheon and plan together. Surely we shall know each other if we are invited again to be on a panel.

Auditorium dedicated to Thomas Jefferson

■ The auditorium in the Department of Agriculture was officially dedicated as the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Auditorium on May 29. This was in line with the recommendations of the National Agricultural Jefferson Bicentenary Committee last year. The dedication was to have been made on April 13 but was postponed because of the period of mourning for the late President Roosevelt. The addresses of Congressman John

W. Flannagan, Jr. of Virginia, and W. A. Lloyd, Washington representative of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, were inserted by Congressman Flannagan in the Congressional Record of June 4.

In the picture are (left to right) Congressman Flannagan; Maj. Gen. Philip B. Fleming, Public Works Administrator; William A. Lloyd; and Under Secretary Grover B. Hill.



Indiana garden contest

■ Leaders in the victory garden activity throughout the State are eyeing results of a unique contest and educational project conducted in Vanderburgh County, Ind., in which rural young people participated.

The project started after Seed Dealers' Association of Evansville and County Superintendent of Schools Charles Robinson got together with County Agricultural Agent A. M. Bishea and the Purdue University Extension Service to plan something to boost interest in the county victory garden program.

As a result, the seed dealers put

up \$100 for prizes, the school head carried out the activity, and the Extension Service prepared the contest examination in which students in the seventh and eighth grades throughout the county were eligible to participate.

County Superintendent Robinson arranged for the garden information course to be worked into the school teaching program as an extra activity in connection with the grade school health classes throughout the county. The Vanderburgh County garden guide, which had been prepared earlier, was used in all schools

as a text. Participation in the county-wide contest examination was voluntary, but teachers and extension workers were swamped when 1,200 youngsters plied their knowledge in an effort to become county champ and share in the cash awards.

The test included 20 true-false type, 14 completion-type, and 10 selection-type questions.

Enthusiastic garden leaders in the county believe the contest has stimulated extensive interest in the food for freedom garden food production program.

Doctors' aides

Five hundred Pope County, Ark., home demonstration club women realized early in 1943 that there would be a shortage of doctors and nurses for the duration, so they decided to equip themselves to take care of accidents and sickness in their homes.

Mabel Bussell, county home demonstration agent, says the women included in their club program a study of first-aid treatment for fainting, burns, cuts, severe bleeding, broken bones, and shock. They had a demonstration in giving artificial respiration.

They have studied food for the sick and have seen a demonstration on preparing a tray for an ill person. They learned how to prepare a sick-room, take temperatures, bathe a patient, change the bed, and plan a home medicine cabinet.

Treatment of common emergencies such as boils, blisters, colds, earache; foreign bodies in the ear, eye, nose, and windpipe; insects and poison ivy, and what to do in case of poison were taken up next.

The women devoted last September and October to study of a safe and sanitary home and how to protect family health.

Early this year they acquired skill in applying bandages and dressings by practice.

They were taught by 35 local leaders who had been trained in 3 schools conducted by a trained nurse, the home demonstration agent, and qualified Red Cross teachers.

This summer the women are having five short home-nursing courses of six lessons each, so that there will be courses in reach of each community.

Recommends radio schools

■ Few conferences, meetings, or "schools" have ever received such universal and enthusiastic words of approval and praise as the 2-day radio school in Oregon. One county agent said the first half day was worth his trip across the Cascade Mountains in a snowstorm, even if he didn't learn another thing.

Following a full morning of preliminaries, plus some pointers on successful broadcasting techniques, the extension workers were given two different sets of fact sheets and their assignments at noon. They were restricted to the general subjects covered by the fact sheets—farm labor and victory gardens. Individual talks were to be 3 minutes, dialogs 4 minutes, and four-man panels 5 minutes in length as their assignments. At 2 o'clock the "students" returned, and cutting of transcriptions began.

Facilities provided by the Oregon State College speech department's radio speech lab enabled playbacks of talks while others were being cut. The fun really began when the "commentators" were turned loose on the playbacks before the entire school. These critics included Kenneth Gapen, C. B. Mitchell, head of the Oregon State speech department; Allan Miller, manager of KOAC, Oregon's State-owned station; Burton Hutton, farm service director for KALE, Portland; Earl

Britton, farm program director for KOAC; and Fred M. Shideler, extension information assistant. They drew no punches, and the more severe they were the better the participants liked it. The extension workers were there to learn how to present better extension radio programs, and they wanted the "works"—which they got.

Workers from the counties prepared a second talk on the final day, which was recorded and played back but not criticized except for a few comments. Those attending judged for themselves any improvement. In most cases this improvement was very noticeable and obvious.

What Do Stations Want?

Meanwhile, Kenneth Gapen had explained what stations want in farm and home programs, the extension agents' place in radio, how to get and organize farm news, tips to broadcasters, program building, and mike psychology. Other speakers included Mr. Teutsch, who explained why agents should use radio; Mr. Hutton who told what makes a farm and farm home service tick and click; and L. R. Breithaupt, extension agricultural economist, Oregon State College, who reported on a farm program listener survey.—*Fred M. Shideler, information assistant, Oregon.*

Two new members on staff of National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work

■ The National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work has two new field representatives, Emmie Nelson and G. A. McDonald. Emmie Nelson, who is well known to State 4-H Club workers throughout the Nation, served as assistant State club leader at the University of Georgia for 10 years. She is a former 4-H Club member, was graduated from the University of Georgia with a B. S. degree in home economics, and served as home demonstration agent in Richmond County, Ga., before accepting a position in the State 4-H office.

Miss Nelson has served as a member of the extension subcommittee on 4-H Club work and on important committees relating to the National 4-H Club Congress. Through her many

local, State, and national contacts she has developed a splendid understanding of the 4-H program.

After G. A. McDonald graduated from the South Dakota State College in 1929 with a B. S. degree he taught high school agriculture for several years and then became county agent in Brookings County. He, too, is a former 4-H Club member. In 1937 Mr. McDonald became livestock specialist in South Dakota and during the next 7 years worked closely with the State and county extension agents on 4-H livestock club work. While on the State staff he completed work for his M. S. degree at the University of Minnesota, with a major in animal husbandry and a minor in economics. For the past year Mr. McDonald has

been associated with the Sioux Falls, S. Dak., Livestock Exchange as livestock market news commentator and secretary of the exchange.

When announcing the addition of Miss Nelson and Mr. McDonald to the staff of the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, G. L. Noble, managing director, said that the addition of Miss Nelson and Mr. McDonald to the staff will make it possible to maintain closer personal contacts between the Federal and State Extension Services and the National Committee. It will be their purpose to have the field representatives ascertain the State needs and further aid from the National Committee and to bring them first-hand information about various services of the committee.

Dr. Fred H. Leinbach, who was on leave of absence from the University of Maryland while directing the National Livestock Conservation Program, has been called back to his position as head of the animal husbandry department at the university.

Fat contest yielded 5,000 red points

A half ton of waste fat and the 5,147 point value in red points were part of the display at the Lenawee County, Mich., home economics achievement day, which culminated a 30-day friendly contest when a prize was awarded to the group turning in the largest number of pounds per member.

The Holloway Mothers Club averaged 20.34 pounds for their 22 members, or a total of 447½ pounds, and won a lovely scrapbook as the prize.

The county total fat salvaged brought \$102.94 in money, and the red point value was sufficient to purchase 214 pounds of butter.

The rules of the contest were drawn up in the county as a dramatic way to call attention to the fat salvage campaign, according to Beatrice Frangquist, home demonstration agent in Lenawee County. All 23 clubs in the county were eligible to compete. The home-front chairman in each group was teller for the members in her own club.

As Lenawee groups have members in small-town and rural areas, the contest created much interest throughout the area.



Flashes

FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion Julia Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

■ **Butter as a source of vitamin A.** Next time you part with all those red ration points for a pound of butter, it may cheer you to think that you are pretty sure to be getting 15,000 International Units of vitamin A in it. If you could eat as much butter as you used to before the war, it alone would furnish about 15 percent of your daily requirement of vitamin A as recommended by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council. At the request of that board, a study of the vitamin-A value of creamery butter was begun in 1941 by State experiment stations, in cooperation with the Bureau of Dairy Industry and the office of Experiment Stations of the Department. The results have recently been compiled, and the report is now in press.

Besides establishing the average vitamin-A value of a pound of creamery butter at 15,000 units, the study indicates that both vitamin A and carotene (which is converted into vitamin A in the human body) are very stable in butter, so that little if any is lost during ordinary periods of storage. Though there is quite a difference in vitamin-A content between winter butter and summer butter, that produced in summer when green feed is available naturally being richer, it averages up over the year.

This study has demonstrated clearly that the vitamin-A content of butter, as well as that of milk and other dairy products, depends on the quantity of carotene in the cow's diet. Because of the variations in the vitamin-A value of milk under different feeding methods and at different seasons, the conclusion is that much can be done to increase vitamin A in dairy products by attention to choice of feeds.

■ **No mother to guide them.** Baby turkeys that are hatched in incubators are often so slow in learning to eat the feed and water set before

them that they starve to death or have their growth seriously retarded. Baby chicks eat much more readily, and poultrymen who are used to raising chickens sometimes lose turkey poults because they do not understand that the little turkeys must be taught to eat and drink.

Several things can be done to accomplish this: Put out a greater number than usual of water and feed containers; these should be of the open type, as poults do not at first like to put their heads between wires or into holes. Offer extra mash on pie plates or egg-case flats. Sprinkle oatmeal or finely chopped, tender green feed on the mash and on the water. Put bright-colored glass marbles on the feed and in the water to attract the birds' attention. Dip the beak of each poult in the water, then in the mash. Keep the poults where there is plenty of light, and be sure to supply feed and water before they are 48 hours old. It may help to put a few older poults which are already trained in with the younger ones for a few days, but take them only from stock free of disease.

■ **Velva Fruit in the news again.** An attractive folder recently issued by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics tells how to make Velva Fruit at home, in an ice-cream freezer or in a mechanical refrigerator. Each step of the preparation is illustrated and easy to follow. Making Velva Fruit is a fine way to enjoy berries, peaches, grapes, cantaloups—almost any kind of fruit—especially when more is available than can be eaten fresh. Even if you have to buy the fruit for the purpose, however, it may pay; for this delicious frozen dessert is a treat, especially in summer.

Velva Fruit can be stored for several months in a freezer cabinet, but flavor and texture are at their peak soon after freezing. So it is best to make a puree of the fruit, which can

be frozen and stored for some time with less loss of quality, and make it into Velva Fruit when you plan to eat it. Directions for making the puree are also in the folder, which is number AIS-22.

■ **Stretching the tobacco-growing bottleneck.** A new treatment for the tobacco bed where the crop is started promises to insure the production of more and better plants. Tobacco specialists say that the plant bed is the bottleneck in tobacco growing because the tender seedlings growing in a small space are subject to disease attack and to the competition of weeds. This problem has been met in the past in one of three ways: By using new ground for the beds each year; by sterilizing the soil with steam; or by piling and burning brush on the bed ground. All these methods have drawbacks. The new treatment consists in the use of chemicals to kill the weeds and disease organisms in the plant beds. The best results from chemical treatment last year, according to tobacco experts of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, were from the use of 1 pound of urea and one-half pound of calcium cyanamide for each square yard of tobacco bed, stirred into the upper 4 inches of the soil sometime between September 1 and November 1. This treatment has reduced the weed population about 95 percent and controlled the root knot. It gives best results in light sandy soils, cannot be recommended unqualifiedly for heavy soils. The study of chemical control of weeds in tobacco beds has been going on for 6 years in cooperation with the experiment stations of South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Maryland, and Georgia, and the Department of Agriculture of North Carolina.

New circular

Do farm families get and read bulletins, news stories, and circular letters prepared for them by the Extension Service? Do they understand and make use of the information? How can the use of extension written material be improved?

Some of the answers are given in Extension Service Circular No. 424, Findings From Studies of Bulletins, News Stories, and Circular Letters by Lucinda Crile, Federal Extension Service.

We Study Our Job

How long is the home agent's week?

On the average, home demonstration agents spend a little more than 52 hours each week on their official duties, according to 1944 spring-summer records of 173 agents from 46 States. If earned annual leave, lunch time, personal, and legal holiday time were included the average home-agent week in the United States would be about 60½ hours.

The actual working time of home agents varies slightly in different regions as follows:

Region	Average length of work week
Central	56 hours 43 minutes
Eastern	50 " 39 "
Southern	50 " 46 "
Western	53 " 26 "

To be fair to each region we must explain that the agents in the Central and Western regions kept their records in June rather than May, as in the other two regions, and so had the benefit of longer daylight hours for the week they recorded. Some difference in activities would account, too, for a long work day. June was the time for 4-H Club Camp in some of the Central and Western counties and camp days are notoriously long ones.

In many county offices, the extension workers, like the country doctor, is on call all day and much of the night. Forty-six percent of the home agents said it was difficult to live up to this schedule. As expressed by the agents themselves, the extension schedule was often inconvenient, nerve-racking, a cause of undue fatigue, or the part of the job they disliked.

In answer to a question about their difficulties, 25 percent of the agents reported their main difficulty to be the "irregular, long, busy hours"; 9 percent spoke of "too long schedules"; 18 percent said too many "night meetings"; and about 4 percent reported a problem with home calls in the evenings and on Sundays.

About a third of the agents have retained the Saturday half holiday, at least theoretically. But whether they work a whole day or a half day, home demonstration agents give some extra measure in overtime.

Approximately 61 percent of the agents did no Sunday work, about a fourth worked less than 4 hours on Sunday, but about 12 percent put in a half day or more on extension activities.

Previous progress reports of this Nation-wide study of the home agent's job were given on the "We Study Our Job" page in the January and March 1945 issues of the REVIEW. Winter records of home agents for January and February 1945 are being summarized at present.

Publications workshop

More readable extension publications seem to be in the offing, judging from reports of the Publications Workshop held at Columbia University, May 21 to June 2. Some 30 extension workers from 17 States, including editors and State and Federal workers, took part in the workshop activities which were carried out under the personal direction of Dr. Irving Lorge of Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Lorge is also a consultant with the Federal Extension Service. The activities of the workshop centered around the problems extension workers have in preparing written material for farm people.

How to communicate ideas in most understandable form was the basis of lectures given in the morning and afternoon by top-flight consultants including Lyman Bryson, George Gallup, Ruth Strang, and Harold Clark. The topics discussed included: Psychology of the adult; how people read; problems in communication; pointers on writing; visual aids; and problems in layout, format, and printing related to extension bulletins.

Following the lecture periods the assembly broke up into smaller groups, each working on a specific problem or phase of making publications readable. One group made a

study of formulas to measure readability of written material; also laid plans for developing a special farm word list for use in preparing and analyzing extension publications. Another group discussed the presentation of material—the layout, format, size of type, and use of color and illustrations.

A third group met to develop ways of evaluating our extension publications. Studies were planned to test publications in the office and in the field to find out if and how people get them; if the publications are read and understood; and if they influence readers to make any changes.

Readability Grass Roots

Some pioneer readability research by J. E. McClintock, Ohio extension editor, was brought to light at the workshop. Mr. McClintock told about making a study in 1929 for his master's degree at the University of Wisconsin on What Makes a Popular Bulletin Popular. Andrew Hopkins of Wisconsin, another workshop participant, had cooperated with Mr. McClintock in sending out questionnaires for this study.

Three bulletins on the same subject, written by different authors, were the basis of this readability project. Copies of the three bulletins, together with questionnaires asking for comments on the bulletins, were sent to 67 selected readers. Those asked to judge the manuscripts included dairy farmers, editors of farm papers, county agricultural agents, and businessmen.

The replies indicated that the simplest bulletin was the favorite. This bulletin averaged shorter sentences than the other two publications. The words used were short and concrete, largely words from the Middle English and Anglo-Saxon that are most familiar.

Based on a careful study of the "favorite publication," Mr. McClintock concluded, "Other things being equal, style of writing makes the popular bulletin popular."

The study has not been duplicated for distribution.

Among Ourselves

■ MRS. HARRIET F. JOHNSON, who resigned as 4-H girls' club leader for South Carolina on October 1, 1944, is the first woman State representative in South Carolina. Mrs. Johnson worked with the Extension Service for 25 years, first as home demonstration agent in Spartanburg County. During the past 22 years she has given her time to the 4-H Club girls of South Carolina. (Among Ourselves, page 13, January 1945 Extension Service Review.)

When Mrs. Johnson heard of a vacancy on the York County delegation for the legislature, she followed an "intruding idea," as she calls it. Her friends were enthusiastic and encouraged her to register for the campaign, which she did 10 minutes before the books closed. When her name was announced, friends began writing and telephoning all over the county; and they put two advertisements in the paper. She ran ads herself, had radio announcements, and gave two radio talks. The race with the three men opponents was a close one, Mrs. Johnson getting 400 votes and the next highest 395.

The high ideals that prevail in fine leadership such as hers were made evident in the only campaign promises she made: "To help maintain dignity and honor in the hall of the State . . . and to attempt to have the right attitude in thinking so as to have the approval of supporters." The only other woman in the South Carolina Legislature was a senator some years ago.

■ LAWRENCE L. JOHNSON, who headed Extension Service work with Texas 4-H Club boys since 1935, died in a Bryan hospital Monday night, June 11. He was born at Zanesville, Ohio, October 22, 1893, but had made his home in Texas since youth.

"The passing of Mr. Johnson deprived the 4-H Club movement in Texas of an inspired leader," said James D. Prewit, vice director and State agent for the A. and M. College Extension Service. "Under his direction the enrollment of club boys and the number and volume of their demonstrations reached record pro-



portions. In 1943, the enrollment exceeded 40,000, and the value of the major productions of the club boys was more than 2½ million dollars. Although wartime conditions, especially the heavy demands upon boys to take a larger share of regular farm work, brought a slight decline in total membership in 1944, the value of production of food and fiber by Texas 4-H Club boys was more than in 1943.

"During Mr. Johnson's decade of service as State boys' club agent the success of Texas 4-H Club boys in winning national blue ribbon contests increased steadily. In 1943, Texas boys took 5 firsts of these contests, including the coveted achievement award which included a chest of silver presented by the President of the United States. In 1944, Texas club boys took 4 of the blue ribbon awards. Mr. Johnson was a tireless worker, and his death is a grave loss to the Extension Service headquarters staff."

Mr. Johnson served overseas with a machine gun battalion of the Fifth Division during the First World War. Upon his discharge in 1919, he entered Texas A. and M. College and after completing his scholastic work in 1921 joined the Extension Service as agricultural agent in Bosque

County, serving until 1925 when he was transferred to a similar position in Cooke County. In 1935, he joined the Extension Service headquarters at College Station as State boys' club agent, a position previously filled by T. O. Walton, former president of the college, former Director of Extension H. H. Williamson, and Sterling Evans.

During his long career as head of boys' club work, Mr. Johnson conducted many groups of club boys to the National 4-H Club Congress at Chicago and to the National 4-H Encampment at Washington. But his activities were climaxed when he headed a group of 24 Texas boys on a tour of Mexico from May 28 until June 7 last. Several years ago he conceived a plan of taking a number of representative Texas 4-H Club boys to the southern republic as a gesture of friendship and to create a closer understanding between the youth of the two nations. Two boys from each of the 12 Texas Extension Service districts were selected on the basis of leadership, production, and character to make up the party. Although in failing health, Mr. Johnson worked untiringly in laying plans for the journey and courageously made the long trip to Mexico City. There he saw his hopes realized when, with the cooperation of Minister of Agriculture Marte Gomez, and Director Hector Lazos of the National School of Agriculture at Chapingo, a corresponding number of students at the school joined with Texas club boys and fraternized with them during the 4 days' stay at the national capital.

■ NEWTON W. GAINES who has been associated with the Agricultural Extension Service at the University of Nebraska for better than a quarter of a century—27 years as a matter of fact—retired as rural community specialist July 1 and turned the work over to T. H. "Ted" Alexander.

Mr. Gaines has been one of the very few Nebraskans who has spoken in every village, hamlet, town, and city in Nebraska—and in thousands of rural communities; in fact he says he has made 7,000 addresses.

Probably he is known personally in

more communities than any other Nebraskan today. He is intimately acquainted with 4-H Club boys and girls, farm men and women, civic club leaders, school teachers, college professors, and blacksmiths.

"In the early days," Gaines said, "there weren't any movies or radio. People turned out to hear speakers at the chautauqua or lyceum. Merchants in small towns closed their business houses during the sessions, and crowds poured into the chautauqua tents and into buildings to hear the imported talent."

Gaines was among that talent. He was with the circuits for 9 straight years. The work took him all over the country.

What did he talk about? Well, he had one speech that was entitled "New Wine and New Bottles." It was a humorous speech and a take-off on youth. His contract called for him to speak about 1 hour and 15 minutes, no less.

"In those days people would listen to speeches for that length of time," he says. "They paid for it and wanted their money's worth."

He recalls working the circuit with Senator Bob LaFollette, father of the present Senator LaFollette. At Scottsbluff, he remembers Senator LaFollette speaking for 5 solid hours on the platform. Young Bob LaFollette was there and carried ice packs to the stage and put them on his father's neck to cool him off. After 5 hours of this oratory, Gaines followed, and the audience still sat for more.

Then, he came to the Nebraska Extension Service—that was 27 years ago. He was in charge of rural community organizations, and he helped reorganize groups in many rural areas. These organizations set up their own educational programs, and this later developed into a widespread work among the older boys and girls—those beyond 4-H Club age and "Rural Youth" groups were organized throughout the State.

Gaines continued his speaking work here. He went into rural areas, cities, and towns; and it was just a few years ago that he could boast of speaking in every village, hamlet, town, and city in Nebraska.

■ T. X. CALNAN, Barnes County, N. Dak., extension agent and one of the oldest county agents in point of

service in the United States, died May 26, ending more than 32 years of educational work, and all, except a few months, in one county.

Mr. Calnan was in Barnes County for 31 years of his connection with the Extension Service and was recognized widely as an agricultural leader. Every farm family in Barnes County knew him personally. The programs he planned and developed for farm people and 4-H members continue as a monument to his memory.

■ L. V. TOYNE, Colorado agricultural extension agent on leave from Weld County to serve as an agricultural officer with the State Department, is assigned to the American consul general's office in Sydney, Australia, instead of Paris as reported in the February issue.

According to Toyne, no United States Government agricultural officer has been assigned to Australia since about 1933. He has been assigned the job of enlarging the agricultural work of the State Department in that country.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that the State Department is appointing farm-trained men to serve in 40 posts abroad similar to the work to which Toyne is being assigned. The staff employed in foreign agricultural relations will eventually number between 75 and 90.

As a result of this policy, the Department of State and the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations in the U. S. Department of Agriculture will receive a much greater quantity and a higher quality of detailed reports involving farm data and statistics, which will be of much value in protecting United States farmers from lack of information, prejudice, and misinformation. Also, this will help in the launching of domestic agricultural programs, because more and better information on the world's agricultural situation will be available.

■ Department of Agriculture employees who have each given a gallon or more blood were recently presented certificates at an impressive ceremony in the Department Auditorium. Judge Marvin Jones, War Food Administrator, and W. A. Minor, Assistant to the Secretary, presented certificates to the bureau blood-donor chairmen for their gallon donors. More than 200 employees in the Federal office have given a gallon

or more of blood. Seven Washington employees have given 2 gallons. Those of the Extension Service who have given a gallon or more are Mrs. Nellie Rasmussen, Arthur M. Sowder, Jane F. Maloney, T. G. Hornung, Agnes King, and Harlan F. Shrader. Another member of the Extension family but employed by the Bureau of Dairy Industry, Joseph B. Parker, has given nearly 2 gallons. Agriculture employees in Washington have contributed more than 9,500 pints of blood since the program began in 1942.

Maine women can boys' favorite foods

City people nowadays are sharing the benefits of many an educational program emanating from the Extension Service, planned primarily for rural folks. Last fall a project was launched in Maine to teach the wives, mothers, and sweethearts of the boys overseas how to can Christmas goodies properly in order that they would reach their destination in good condition.

Mrs. Agnes F. Gibbs, war food production assistant, working in greater Portland, and Mrs. Elizabeth Cobb, Cumberland County home demonstration agent, helped process and pack 3,810 cans to send overseas. Seventy-six varieties of foods were canned and sent to 37 different countries. Packed in the boxes were such foods as fudge, cookies, Maine home-baked beans, steamed brown bread, steamed pudding, spaghetti and meat balls, and lobsters. The lobsters were supplied and cooked by the local fishermen, and the women removed the meat and canned it.

■ Home demonstration clubs in El Paso County, Colo., are making 1945 their Better Health Year.

Each club is studying the needs of its own community in regard to examinations for preschool children, nutritious meals for health, and hot school lunches.

The home demonstration club members will study group health insurance and hospitalization plans and recreational facilities for adults as well as children. Each club has agreed to study safety measures in the home and on the farm and to equip and learn to use a well-equipped medicine chest.

The once-over

Reflecting the news of the month as we go to press

WHO ADVISES THE FARM ADVISOR? Two tributes have been paid to the county agricultural agents in the Western Dairy Journal for July. One came from Glenn Kinghorn, the Pacific Northwest representative of the Journal, in a story under the above title; the other from our new USDA Secretary, Clinton P. Anderson, in a box statement with the same article.

SEEDS SENT BY THE AMERICAN TO THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE are already doing service in agricultural rehabilitation, according to letters received by Russian War Relief from Y. L. Getmanov, Soviet agronomist, and A. K. Ditlov, Moscow victory gardener. Mr. Getmanov described the aid given as "immense, and highly appreciated by the whole of the Soviet Union." He also said that the seeds are helping a great deal in the quickest possible rehabilitation of the liberated areas of the U.S.S.R.

FROM ENGLAND COMES J. C. HOTCHKISS to look over our 4-H Club work. As chief organizer of the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs in England and Wales he has long had experience in working with youth. He is on his way to a new post to be in charge of 4-H Club work for the British West Indies. He said the Young Farmers Clubs were organized in 1921 by Lord Northcliff who had been interested in the work of 4-H Clubs in the United States. The clubs have taken an important part in the war-production program, and the organization has grown rapidly during the war years. At the end of May 1945 there were 1,234 clubs and 65,000 members, about two-thirds of them being boys. Before taking up his new duties, Mr. Hotchkiss plans to visit 4-H Clubs in Ohio, Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York. He will attend the Interstate 4-H Club Conference in Sioux City, Iowa, and the annual club week of the 4-H Clubs of Quebec, Canada.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN WAS PRESENTED with an honorary 4-H Club pin at Independence, Mo., in June.

The radio carried the program in which a 4-H Club boy representing the county council of leaders of Jackson County, the President's home county, publicly presented the pin. A story, A neighborhood leader becomes President, appears on page 116 of this issue.

IN RECENT NATIONAL CLOTHING COLLECTION DRIVE 43,435 families were contacted by Arkansas home demonstration club women, 123,388 articles of clothing and household articles were donated, and 216,077 pounds of clothing, shoes, bedding, and other articles were given or collected by home demonstration club groups.

FLORIDA FARM AND TOWN FAMILIES are cooperating in getting their canning done. Farm women are too busy working in the fields to can, and the town women have nothing to put into cans. Home demonstration agents arrange for cooperation, the farmers dropping off vegetables and fruit to be canned as they take loads to market and the town women doing the canning. Under this plan as much as 241,293 quarts have been canned in 21 counties, particularly in the truck-growing areas.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the National Association of County Agri-

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cultural Agents, together with chairmen of other committees of the Association, spent the week of July 9 in USDA meeting with members of the Federal Extension staff and heads of USDA and other government agencies. They had a friendly session with Secretary Clinton P. Anderson. A. F. MacDougall, president of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, after a recent interview with Secretary Anderson, said, "County agents can be proud of the leadership Secretary Anderson is giving the agriculture of this Nation."

A GIANT CANNING BOOK, about 3 by 5 feet in size, displayed in a AAA window in Hand County, S. Dak., attracted much attention. On each page were directions for canning vegetables and fruits that were on the market at that time. When new fruits and vegetables came on the market the pages were turned to correspond with the season. There was also a display of bulletins and a stairway of shelves on which three jars of canned food were placed when a new food came into season.

COMMITTEE ON EXTENSION ORGANIZATION AND POLICY met in Washington the week of July 9. Among important items discussed were (1) The newly appropriated Bankhead-Flannagan funds and implementation of policies in the States conforming to the language and intent of Congress in making these funds available. (2) The situation with regard to emergency war food funds for 1945-46. (3) The 1946 extension farm labor program, (4) S. 1078, a bill introduced by Senator Thomas of Oklahoma, the purpose of which is declared to be as follows: "A bill to foster the cooperative agricultural educational work of the extension services; to free the extension services from the performance of nongovernmental functions; and to promote economy in the expenditure of public funds for the conduct of cooperative agricultural extension work; and for other purposes . . ."

The Committee had a very satisfactory meeting with Secretary Clinton P. Anderson and had a joint session with the Executive Committee of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.